

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3659
ANSWERED ON:07.04.2003
COVERAGE OF FARMERS UNDER M.S.P.
CHANDRA NATH SINGH;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of farmers benefited under the Minimum Support Price (MSP);
- (b) whether the Government propose to increase the coverage of farmers in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) fixed by the Government for different crops are in the nature of a guarantee to the farmers that in the event of glut in the market consequent in excessive supply, the prices will not be allowed to fall below remunerative levels. All the farmers producing the 25 crops covered under the MSP Scheme therefore stand to benefit from the MSP. The farmers are free to sell their produce in the open market at prices which may be higher than the MSPs fixed by the Government.

(b) to (d): At present, there is no proposal under consideration to increase the coverage of commodities under the MSP Scheme.